



For more information, contact:  
Rosemary O'Neil 360-804-2503  
oneilr@monroe.wednet.edu

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE – September 28, 2015**

### **Feedback needed on plans to modernize Park Place Middle School**

**Monroe, WA** – “What I did on my summer vacation” essays may look remarkably similar this fall for many Park Place Middle staff, parents, and community leaders. No one was copying anyone’s paper. They were all focused on plans to modernize Park Place Middle School as part of that effort’s Design Steering Committee.

Design Steering Committee members will be on hand Thursday, October 15, at 7 p.m. in the Park Place Middle Library to share their efforts and hear the community’s best advice on the work so far.

In April 2015 local voters approved tax dollars to modernize Park Place Middle School. Originally built in the mid-1970s, the Park Place campus is in great need of work to meet the demands of today’s middle schoolers. Construction is set for the spring of 2016 but first a plan is needed.

Starting with concepts from 2010, these Committee members spent this summer reviewing and challenging the ideas of the past. Their efforts also looked to the future of what is the best environment for high academic achievement for every student and helping 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> graders build skills necessary to be good citizens. The group held many, many hours of discussion and also visited staff in recently built or modernized middle schools in neighboring communities for their best advice.

Design Steering Committee members include community members: Joe Springer – Chain Lake Attendance Area & Park Place parent, Brandon Moen – Salem Woods Attendance Area parent, Erin Angus-Snapka – Frank Wagner Attendance Area parent and Local Business owners Carlina Morris and Sam Wirsching; Park Place Middle staff: Steve Blanton – Lead Custodian, Ashley Castillo – Learning Specialist, Ansgar Duemchen – Music, Monica Garbutt – General Ed./Drama, Maura Hartway – Science, Jayne Harvey – Physical Ed.\*, Bret Ingham – Library, Lisa Johnson – Secretarial/Clerical, Rich McCutchan – Career & Technical Ed.\*, Dottie Simoni – General Ed, Ken Weber – Art, Terry Cheshire, Joel Garrison and Kristie Hilson – Administration; District-level staff: John Mannix – Operations\*, Ralph Yingling/Devlin Piplic – Facilities, Jeff Beazizo – Safety/Security, Rachelle Butz – Instructional Technology, Mary Myers – Nursing & General Health, Anne Proctor – Network Engineer, Joe Banach – Transportation, Dave Williams – Middle Level Career & Technical Ed., Nick French – Student Services/Special Education; professional staff from Integrus Architecture - Rebecca Baibak – Principal Architect\*, David Van Galen – Principal Architect\*, Daniel Gero – Associate Architect and J. Irons – Project Manager.

\* Participated in 2010 Educational Specification Programming Exercise

### - 30 - ###